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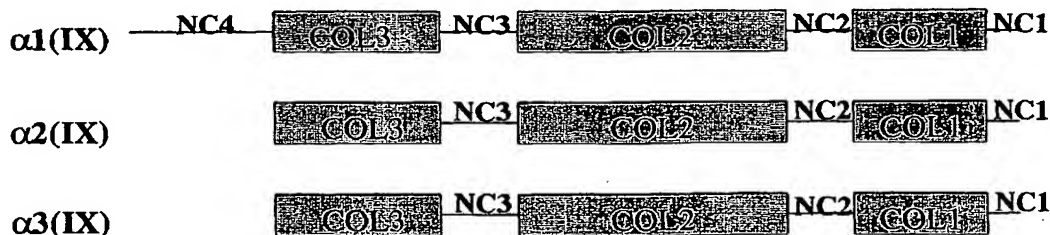
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(54) Title: **CONNECTIVE TISSUE DERIVED POLYPEPTIDES**

Map of the Human type IX collagen molecule showing the 3 $\alpha$  chains which constitute the heteropolymer and their collagenous (COL) and non-collagenous (NC) domains.



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compositions comprising one or more connective tissue derived polypeptides having a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da which are capable of tolerising individuals to antigenic components of cartilage and prevent the appearance of symptoms of arthritis. The present invention provides methods for recovering polypeptides having a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da from connective tissue and having anti-arthritic or anti-inflammatory activity. The present invention further relates to compositions comprising a polypeptide comprising a collagen type IX alpha (1) chain NC4 domain or biologically active fragment having anti-arthritic or anti-inflammatory activity and a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da, which is capable of tolerising individuals to antigenic components of cartilage and prevent the appearance of symptoms of arthritis.

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